

GENERAL NOTES

Birds new for the Río Grande delta area.—A bird picked up dead near the jetty on Brazos Island by Terry Gill, and brought by him to Harlingen, Texas, on January 28, 1947, I identified as an Audubon's Shearwater (*Puffinus lherminieri*).

A census team composed of William S. Jennings and Luther Goldman, while working on the Harlingen Christmas Bird Census on December 23, 1950, listed "a strange dove of reddish-brown color." The next day Jennings and I went back to the same area and found the bird—quite obviously a Ruddy Ground Dove (*Columbigallina talpacoti*)—with a flock of Inca Doves (*Scardafella inca*). A few days later I accompanied Goldman and Jennings to the Axtla River, in eastern San Luis Potosí, México, where we saw a number of Ruddy Ground Doves. Both men readily agreed that the bird they had seen near Harlingen was in every way identical with those they were seeing in the tropics.

Maurine and Terry Gill showed me a drawing and careful description of a flycatcher which they had observed for some time in a prairie area east of Río Hondo on November 19, 1946. Since it was with a flock of Scissor-tailed Flycatchers (*Muscivora forficata*), and since there were also Mockingbirds (*Mimus polyglottos*) nearby, the Gills were able to make an appraisal of the bird's exact size. From the data supplied me I readily identified it as a Fork-tailed Flycatcher (*Muscivora tyrannus*). This possibility had not occurred to the Gills because the bird had lost so much of its tail that when it flew only one (or what appeared to be one) long streamer trailed out behind. I recall that the first Fork-tailed Flycatcher I ever saw (on the coastal prairie in central Veracruz) had had a similar mishap.

A visitor from New York, Arthur Aranoff, reported a Black Phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*) on the Resaca del Rancho Viejo near the village of Olmito, Cameron County, Texas, in December, 1947. Later I found the bird and kept watch over it for several months. It disappeared in the spring of 1948 and, so far as I have been able to determine, it has not returned since.—L. IRBY DAVIS, Box 988, Harlingen, Texas.

Mexican Cormorant in Oklahoma.—Visitors to Lake Texoma (on the Oklahoma-Texas border, south of Marshall, Love and Bryan Counties, Oklahoma) have, since its impoundment in 1945, occasionally seen cormorants there, most of them Double-crested Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax auritus*) presumably, that being the only species listed by Nice (1931. "The Birds of Oklahoma," Revised Edition. *Publ. Univ. Oklahoma Biol. Surv.*, Vol. 3, No. 1, p. 54) for the state.

In the summer of 1950, I saw cormorants almost daily near the University of Oklahoma Biological Station, some 14 miles south of Madill, Marshall County. Actually, there may have been very few birds, but they flew past so often, or spent so much of their time resting on stubs within plain view, that they seemed to be common. On August 18, I noted groups of four or five repeatedly, and wondered if they might be gathering for migration. The strong south wind made the water rough. The temperature (estimated) at about noon was 90°F.

That day Barbara Wells and I went by motorboat to islands some miles from the Station. Soon after leaving the Station we saw five cormorants perched together on floating logs. About two and one-half miles southeast of the Station, we came upon two more perched on a stub about a hundred yards out from shore. They resembled each other in size. One of them I managed to collect.

The specimen proved to be an extremely fat adult female (ovary distinct, but the ova small). A band of white bordered the gular pouch and there was a sprinkling of fine white feathers on the head and neck. The eyes were green. The skin I placed in the Station's collection.

George M. Sutton, who was on the Station staff in the summer of 1951, called our atten-